

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

40th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

21 October 2025

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 3 November 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona (by web meeting), Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol (by web meeting), Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle, Ernesto Liebana (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Fulvio Barizzzone (MESE), and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 39th Working Group meeting held on 29 September 2025, by web meeting

The [minutes of the 39th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 6 October 2025.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 23: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**

A total of 47 notifications were received between April and September 2025 (inclusive), of which 28 were for evaluation for use in feed, 11 for use as food enzymes, food additives and flavorings, 6 as novel foods, none as plant protection product, and 2 as food contact materials. 43 notifications were not evaluated for the following reasons: 18 notifications were related to microorganisms that are generally excluded from QPS evaluation (9 filamentous fungi and 9 of *Escherichia coli*) and 25 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Of the remaining 4 notifications, one (*Heyndrickxia faecalis* previously known as *Weizmannia faecalis*) had already been evaluated for a possible QPS status in the Panel Statement part 19. The other 2 TUs included: *Microchloropsis gaditana* and *Bacillus thermoamylovorans*, both notified for the first time, will be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement. An additional TU *Aurantiochytrium acetophilum* was included in the Panel statement as a response to an internal request. The ELS exercise was finalised, and the summaries of the assessments were included in the draft and thoroughly discussed. It was decided to revise the ELS exercise search strings for the next cycle in 2026. The draft Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in December 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The overall draft opinion was presented and discussed by the Panel. The WG revised the draft text on the bacteriophage's consideration taking into consideration the data provided during the consultation with a hearing expert held during the previous meeting on 29 September. The WG agreed on the content of the current draft. The deadline for this scientific opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

Meeting dates for 2026 to be defined

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

39th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

29 September 2025

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 October 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Pilar García Suárez (15:00-17:00)
- European Commission:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle, Winy Messens, Ernesto Liebana (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 38th Working Group meeting held on 02 July 2025, by web meeting

The [minutes of the 38th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2025.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 23: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**

A total of 40 notifications were received between April 2025 and August 2025 (inclusive), of which 25 were for evaluation for use in feed, 7 for use as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, 6 as novel foods, none as plant protection product, and 2 as food contact materials. Thirty six notifications were excluded from the current QPS evaluation for the following reasons: 15 notifications were related to microorganisms that are generally excluded from QPS evaluation (including 7 were notifications of filamentous fungi and 8 of *Escherichia coli*) and 21 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation in this mandate. Of the remaining 4 notifications, one (*Heyndrickxia faecalis* previously known as *Weizmannia faecalis*) had already been evaluated for a possible QPS status in previous Panel Statement part 19. The other 2 TUs included: *Nannochloropsis gaditana* (notified for the first time) and *Caldibacillus thermoamylovorans* (notified for the first time) which will also be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement. An additional TU *Aurantiochytrium acetophilum* was included in the Panel statement as a response to an internal request. The ELS exercise is almost finished with the summaries of the articles that arrived to the last phase to be included. The draft Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in December 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts focused on a section related to the current exclusion of bacteriophages from QPS assessment. A hearing expert was invited to clarify questions related to the use of bacteriophage in the food and feed chain. Experts had no time to go through other sections still due to time constraints. Tasks assigned need to be finalised for the next and last meeting. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

- 40th physical meeting - 21/10/2025 Parma

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

38th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

02 July 2025

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 10 July 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle, Beatriz Guerra, Ernesto Liebana (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 37th Working Group meeting held on 20 May 2025, by web meeting

The [minutes of the 37th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 12 June 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 23: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**

A total of 26 notifications were received between April 2025 and June 2025 (inclusive), of which 18 were for evaluation for use in feed, 4 for use as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, 2 as novel foods, none as plant protection product, and 2 as food contact materials. Twenty two notifications were excluded from the current QPS evaluation for the following reasons: 7 notifications were related to microorganisms that are generally excluded from QPS evaluation (including 3 were notifications of filamentous fungi and 4 of *Escherichia coli*) and 15 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation in this mandate. Of the remaining 4 notifications, one (*Heyndrickxia faecalis* previously known as *Weizmannia faecalis*) had already been evaluated for a possible QPS status in previous Panel Statement part 19. The other 2 TUs included: *Nannochloropsis gaditana* (notified for the first time) and *Caldibacillus thermoamylovorans* (notified for the first time) which will also be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement. An additional TU *Aurantiochytrium acetophilum* was included in the Panel statement as a response to an internal request. The draft Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in December 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts went through the sections still to be completed, and tasks were assigned for the next meeting. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

- **Revision of the AMR Panel statement**

The WG experts are revising the "Statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'" to align it with the "Guidance on the risk assessment of microorganisms used in the food chain" which is being finalised but also to reply to an internal request for clarifications.

VII. Next meeting

- 39th web meeting - 29/09/2025
- 40th physical meeting - 21/10/2025 Parma

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

37th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

20 May 2025

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 June 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- o Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.

- o BIOHAZ Panel members:

Valeria Bortolaia (14:00 to 16:00 h)

- o Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- o European Commission:

Not Applicable

- o EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle, Beatriz Guerra, Ernesto Liebana (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Nicole Cionci (FEEDCO Team Feed)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Laurent Guillier (BIOHAZ Panel member).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 36th Working Group meeting held on 2 April 2025, by web meeting

The minutes of the 36th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 April 2025.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 22: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**

A total of 47 notifications were received between October 2024 and March 2025 (inclusive), of which 25 were for evaluation for use in feed, 7 for use as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, 6 as novel foods, 8 as plant protection product, and 1 as food contact materials. 41 notifications were excluded from the current QPS evaluation for the following reasons: 16 notifications were related to microorganisms that are generally excluded from QPS evaluation (including 11 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 4 of *Escherichia coli*, 1 of *Streptomyces* spp.) and 25 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation in this mandate. Of the remaining 6 notifications, two (*Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Ensifer adhaerens*) had already been evaluated for a possible QPS status in previous Panel Statements. The other 4 TUs included: *Vibrio natriegens* (notified for the first time), *Papiliotrema terrestris* (already assessed in 2022), *Bacillus sonorensis* (notified for the first time) and *Corynebacterium stationis* (previously assessed in 2021) which will also be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement. The current assessment of these 4 TUs was discussed amongst the experts. *Lactobacillus paragasseri* was assessed as well because it was formerly included in *Lactobacillus gasseri*, a TU included in the QPS list. The extensive literature search (ELS) exercise was finalised, and the assessment summaries are included in the draft. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in June 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts went through the sections still to be completed, and tasks were assigned for the next meeting. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

- 38th web meeting - 02/07/2025
- 39th web meeting - 29/09/2025
- 40th physical meeting - 21/10/2025 Parma

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

36th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

02 April 2025

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 9 April 2025



Location: web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Fulvio Barizzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 35th Working Group meeting held on 13 January 2025, by web meeting

The [minutes of the 35th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 27 January 2025.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 22: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**

A total of 42 notifications were received between October 2024 and March 2025 (inclusive), of which 23 were for evaluation for use in feed, 6 for use as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, 4 as novel foods, 8 as plant protection product, and 1 as food contact materials. 36 notifications were excluded from the current QPS evaluation for the following reasons: 15 notifications were related to microorganisms that are generally excluded from QPS evaluation (including 10 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 4 of *Escherichia coli*, 1 of *Streptomyces* spp.) and 21 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation in this mandate. Of the remaining 6 notifications, two (*Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Ensifer adhaerens*) had already been evaluated for a possible QPS status in previous Panel Statements. The other 4 TUs included: *Vibrio natriegens* (notified for the first time), *Papiliotrema terrestris* (already assessed in 2022), *Bacillus sonorensis* (notified for the first time) and *Corynebacterium stationis* (previously assessed in 2021) which will also be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement. The current assessment of these 4 TUs was discussed amongst the experts.

The extensive literature search (ELS) exercise is nearing completion. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in June 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The latest changes in the draft opinion were not addressed due to the time constraints and will be tabled for discussion at the next in-person meeting on May 20. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

- 37th physical meeting - 20/05/2025 Parma
 - 38th web meeting - 02/07/2025
 - 39th web meeting - 29/09/2025
 - 40th physical meeting - 21/10/2025 Parma
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SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

35th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

13 January 2025

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 27 January 2024



Location: web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Nadya Doyle (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 34th Working Group meeting held on 22nd October 2024, by web meeting

The [minutes of the 34th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 25 October 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 22: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2025. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00052](#))**
 - Evaluation of the new notifications

Eighteen notifications were received between October and December 2024, 15 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 7 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (5 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Escherichia coli* and 1 of *Streptomyces* spp.), and 8 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 3 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status. 2 of them were already evaluated for a possible QPS status in previous Panel Statements: *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Panel statement part 21) and *Ensifer adhaerens* (Panel statement part 19) which will not be assessed again. The other TU was notified for the first time and therefore will be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement: *Vibrio natriegens*. *Corynebacterium stationis* and *Bacillus sonorensis* will be assessed for a possible QPS status in response to internal requests. The current assessment text of these 3 TUs was discussed by the experts.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was not yet started. It is foreseen to start at the end of January.

The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in June 2025.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

Experts went through the sections still to be completed and tasks were assigned. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

- 36th web meeting - 02/04/2025
 - 37th physical meeting - 20/05/2025 Parma
 - 38th web meeting - 02/07/2025
 - 39th web meeting - 29/09/2025
 - 40th physical meeting - 21/10/2025 Parma
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SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

34th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

22 October 2024

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 25 October 2024



Location: web/physical conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Eric Liegeois and Domenico Deserio (DG SANTE E4), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Fulvio Barizzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 33rd Working Group meeting held on 8 October 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 33rd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 25 October 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 21: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00773](#))**
 - Evaluation of the new notifications

Fifty-four notifications were received between April and September 2024, 50 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 21 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (12 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium* and 8 of *Escherichia coli*), and 29 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 4 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status. Two of them were already evaluated for possible QPS status in previous Panel Statements: *Ensifer adhaerens* (Panel statement part 19) which will not be assessed again now and *Enterococcus lactis* (Panel statement part 15) to be assessed within this Panel Statement as the previous assessment was done within the previous 3-years QPS cycle. The other 2 TUs were notified for the first time and therefore will be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement: *Serratia plymuthica* and *Lacticaseibacillus huelsenbergensis*. The current text of the draft assessment was discussed by the experts.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was finalised, and the assessment summaries included in the draft.

- Reassessment of a possible QPS status of *Bacillus thuringiensis*

Bacillus thuringiensis will be re-assessed for a possible QPS status in response to an internal request. The reassessment of a possible QPS status of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) was thoroughly discussed by all QPS experts. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in December 2024.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

There was no time to discuss this item. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

- **EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms.**

Lieve explained that the guidance will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel, during the next plenary on 23/24 October for possible endorsement before the final endorsement by the SC and before launching a Public Consultation at the end of this year.

VII. Next meeting

Meeting dates to be defined for 2025.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

33rd Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

8 October 2024

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 25 October 2024



Location: web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
EC: Eric Liegeois and Domenico Deserio (DG SANTE E4)
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Fulvio Barizzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting held on 25th September 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 21: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00773](#))**

This meeting was launched to discuss the reassessment of a possible QPS status of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It will be included in this Panel statement.

The data and information extracted from the ELS launched to screen for possible safety concerns linked to *Bacillus thuringiensis* at species level were discussed by the experts.

The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the Plenary in December 2024.

- **Other**

The state of the Art of the "EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms" was explained to the experts by the chair.

VI. Next meeting

- 22/10/2024 in Parma



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

32nd Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

25 September 2024

14:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 08 October 2024



Location: web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
EC: Eric Liegeois and Domenico Deserio (DG SANTE E4)
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from, Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes) and Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo, Carolina Baptista (MESE).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 31st Working Group meeting held on 2 September 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 31st Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 20 September 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 21: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00773](#))**
 - Evaluation of the new notifications

49 notifications were received between April and September 2024, 45 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 21 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (12 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium* and 8 of *Escherichia coli*), and 24 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 4 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status. *Ensifer adhaerens*, recently assessed and therefore will not be assessed again now and *Enterococcus lactis* to be assessed within this Panel Statement as the previous assessment was done within the previous 3-years QPS cycle. The other 2 TUs were notified for the first time and therefore will be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement: *Serratia plymuthica* and *Lactocaseibacillus huelsenbergensis*. *Bacillus thuringensis* will be re-assessed for a possible QPS status in response to an internal request. The current text of the draft assessment was discussed by the experts.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was launched in July and the Article evaluation is being finished.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts worked on different sections of the document and the contributions were discussed. Tasks were assigned for next meeting. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

The state of the Art of the “EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms” was explained to the experts by the chair.

VII. Next meeting

- 08/10/2024 by web meeting
- 29/10/2024 in Parma



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

31st Working Group meeting on qualified
presumption of safety (QPS)

2 September 2024

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 20 September 2024



Location: web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Angela Botteon (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo, Carolina Batista (MESE) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes) and Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 30th Working Group meeting held on 7 May 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 30th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 29 May 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 21: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00773](#))**
 - Evaluation of the new notifications

49 notifications were received between April and September 2024, 45 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 21 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (12 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium* and 8 of *Escherichia coli*), and 24 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 4 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status. *Ensifer adhaerens*, recently assessed and therefore will not be assessed again now and *Enterococcus lactis* to be assessed within this Panel Statement as the previous assessment was done within the previous 3-years QPS cycle. The other 2 TUs were notified for the first time and therefore will be assessed for a possible QPS status in this Panel Statement: *Serratia plymuthica* and *Lacticaseibacillus huelsenbergensis*. *Bacillus thuringensis* will be re-assessed for a possible QPS status in response to an internal request. The current text of the draft assessment was discussed by the experts.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was launched in July and the Title/abstract screening phase had just been finished. During the previous ELS cycle, the nomenclature of bacteria, yeast, algae, protists, and viruses present in the QPS list were checked against their respective authoritative databases to verify the correctness of the names and completeness of synonyms. The new/ correct names found through this exercise, were included in the current ELS exercise.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts worked on different sections of the document and the contributions were discussed. Tasks were assigned for next meeting. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

The state of the Art of the “EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms” was explained to the experts by the chair.

VII. Next meeting

- 25/09/2024 by web meeting
 - 29/10/2024 in Parma
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SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

30th Working Group meeting on qualified
presumption of safety (QPS)

7 May 2024

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 29 May 2024



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Angela Botteon (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Fulvio Barizzone and Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology), Rosella Elisa Brozzi, Elisa Pettenati (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes)

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 29th Working Group meeting held on 22 March 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 29th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 4 April 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 20: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00772](#))**

- Evaluation of the new notifications

84 notifications were received between October 2023 and March 2024, 76 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 27 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (15 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium*, 10 of *Escherichia coli*, and 1 streptomyces), and 49 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 8 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status: 2 have just been evaluated for a possible QPS status in the previous Panel statement: *Weizmannia faecalis* and *Serratia marcescens*, *Schizochytrium* sp. not been assessed because was reported at genus level, *Akkermansia muciniphila*, *Microbacterium arborescens*, *Rhizobium radiobacter* (synonym *Agrobacterium radiobacter*), *Actinomadura roseirufa* and *Burkholderia stagnalis* need to be assessed for a possible QPS status. The draft assessment was discussed and finalised by the experts and is ready for the possible adoption.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was finished and its summaries included in the draft statement and are ready for the possible adoption. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption during the next BIOHAZ plenary on 12/ 13 June 2024.

- Nomenclature changes on QPS TUs

The nomenclature of bacteria, yeast, algae, protists, and viruses present in the QPS list were checked against their respective authoritative databases to verify the correctness of the names and completeness of synonyms. A new procedure for regular checks will be established.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts worked on different sections of the document (namely on Taxonomy) and the contributions were discussed. Tasks were assigned for next meeting.

The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

The follow up on the development of the "EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms" was explained to the experts by the chair.

VII. Next meeting

- 02/09/2024 by web meeting
- 25/09/2024 by web meeting
- 29/10/2024 in Parma



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

29th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

22 March 2024

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 April 2024



Location: Web meeting

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Angela Botteon (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Fulvio Barizzzone and Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Rosella Elisa Brozzi, Elisa Pettenati (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes)

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting held on 22 January 2024, in Parma

The [minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 26 January 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 17-34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 20: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00772](#))**
 - Evaluation of the new notifications

75 notifications were received between October 2023 and February 2024, 68 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 21 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (10 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium*, 9 of *Escherichia coli*, and 1 streptomyces), and 47 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 7 notifications belonged to TUs that have no QPS status: 2 have just been evaluated for a possible QPS status in the previous Panel statement: *Weizmannia faecalis* and *Serratia marcescens*, *Schizochytrium* sp. not been assessed because was reported at genus level, *Akkermansia muciniphila*, *Microbacterium arborescens*, *Rhizobium radiobacter* (synonym *Agrobacterium radiobacter*) and *Actinomadura roseirufa* need to be assessed for a possible QPS status.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was finished and only missing the inclusion of its summaries in the draft statement. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption before 31 June 2024.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts worked on the document and the contributions discussed. Tasks were assigned for next meeting.

The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

The state of the art of the current "EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms" was explained to the experts.

The WG was informed that the main results of the "GUT and ENV microbiome project report"⁴ have been published on EFSA website.

VII. Next meeting

- 07/05/2024 in Parma
- 02/09/2024 by web meeting
- 25/09/2024 by web meeting
- 29/10/2024 in Parma

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⁴ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2024.EN-8597>
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2024.EN-8602>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

28th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

22 January 2024

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 26 January 2024



Location: Web meeting

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Miguel Prieto Maradona, Luisa Peixe, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Angela Botteon (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Rosella Elisa Brozzi, Elisa Pettenati (FEEDCO Team Feed) Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes) and Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo, Carolina Batista (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 27th Working Group meeting held on 7 November 2023, in Parma

The [minutes of the 27th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 1 December 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 20: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2024. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00772](#))**

- Evaluation of the new notifications

32 notifications were received between October and December 2023, 30 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 12 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (6 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium*, 4 of *Escherichia coli*, and 1 streptomyces), and 18 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 2 notifications belonged to 2 TUs which have no QPS status but have just been evaluated for a possible QPS status in the previous Panel statement: *Weizmannia faecalis* and *Serratia marcescens*.

- ELS exercise

The new ELS exercise will be launched as soon as the AI screening process will be agreed by the BIOHAZ panel. The draft workplan was presented to the experts. The draft workplan was presented to the experts. The draft Panel statement will be presented for possible adoption before 31 June 2024.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts worked on the document and the contributions discussed. Tasks were assigned for next meeting.

The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

The state of the art of the current "EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms" was explained to the experts.

VII. Next meeting

- 22/03/2024 by web meeting
- 07/05/2024 in Parma
- 02/09/2024 by web meeting
- 25/09/2024 by web meeting
- 29/10/2024 in Parma

.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

27th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

7 November 2023

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 1 December 2023



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez and Ingvar Sundh. Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona and Amparo Querol attended by web-meeting.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena, Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo, Carolina Batista (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

The ADoI of Prof. Miguel Prieto Maradona could not be approved due to a technical issue in the tool and therefore he had to declare orally again the same interest described in the minutes from the meeting of 4 September.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 26th Working Group meeting held on 4 September 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 26th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8 September 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))**

EFSA coordinator informed the WG that the Panel statement on "how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'" has been published on the 31 October on EFSA website.

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 19: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2023. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00771](#))**

- Evaluation of the new notifications

71 notifications were received, 61 of which were not evaluated for the following reasons: 33 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (26 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 1 of *Enterococcus faecium*, 5 of *Escherichia coli*, and 1 bacteriophage), and 28 were related to TUs that already have the QPS status and did not require further evaluation. The other 10 notifications belonged to 9 TUs. These were evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Burkholderia ubonensis* (already notified and evaluated in 2019), *Candida oleophila*, *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (already notified and evaluated in 2021), *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*, *Ensifer adhaerens* (already notified in 2021 and evaluated in 2022), *Heyndrickxia faecalis*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (already notified and evaluated in 2016), *Pseudomonas putida* and *Serratia marcescens*. The decision of granting new QPS status was discussed and agreed by the WG experts.

- ELS exercise

The ELS exercise was finalised and the summaries discussed and agreed by the experts.

The draft Panel statement will be cleaned and prepared for the next BIOHAZ plenary in December as the deadline for adoption is 31 December 2023.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts discussed further the new challenges/themes to be included in this opinion.

The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

None

VII. Next meeting

Meeting dates for 2024 to be defined.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

6th Working Group meeting on the “absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes”

20 September 2023

14:00-17:00

MEETING NOTES - Agreed on 17 October 2023



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Lieve Herman (chair) and Luisa Peixe
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso, Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Yolanda García Cazorla, Elisa Pettani (FEEDCO Team Feed), Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology) and Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Juan Evaristo Suarez and Rosella Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 5 June 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 14 July 2023

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘acquired antimicrobial resistance genes’ ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))**

- Finalisation and agreement of the Outcome of the Public Consultation (PC) on the Statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes’

EFSA sc. officer presented the draft PC Outcome report with the summary of the submissions received through the PC, considering the type of stakeholders and the number of specific questions or suggestions included on each submission. The specific queries were included in the document as well the proposed replies. The WG experts and EFSA Units representatives went through the proposed replies and agreed on them. The PC Outcome report will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel during the next plenary (27, 28 September) for acceptance and will be published together with the PS.

- Finalisation and agreement of the Panel Statement on “How to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes’?”

The WG experts and EFSA Units representatives discussed and agreed on the changes made in the document in reply to the PC’s questions/ suggestions that were considered relevant. The document was finalised to be sent to the BIOHAZ Plenary next week. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

VI. Next meeting

None



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

26th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

4 September 2023

09:00-12:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 September 2023



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez, Ingvar Sundh

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena, Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Fulvio Barizzzone (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of a point on "Evaluation of "postbiotics" (QPS and beyond".

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 25th Working Group meeting held on 27 June 2023, via web-conference

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The [minutes of the 25th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 17 July 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))**

- Presentation of the current state of the art of the document/ results of Public Consultation
The WG chair explained that during the last BIOHAZ plenary the draft replies to the questions/ comments received during the PC were thoroughly revised by the Panel. The PC report will be published together with the Panel statement. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 19: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2023. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00771](#))**

- Evaluation of the new notifications

Sixty-one notifications were received between April and August 2023 (inclusive): 28 as feed additives, 17 as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, 4 as novel foods and 12 as PPPs. From these 61, 54 were not evaluated because belong to taxonomic units excluded from the QPS evaluation (23 filamentous fungi, 1 *Enterococcus faecium*, 3 *E. coli* and 1 bacteriophage), and 26 belong to taxonomic units that already have a QPS status. The remaining 7 TUs notified within this period were evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Serratia marcescens*, *Weizmannia faecalis*, *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*, *Ensifer adhaerens*, *Burkholderia ubonensis*, *Candida oleophila* and *Pseudomonas putida*.

- New ELS exercise

The new ELS exercise was launched at the beginning of July. Experts are finalising the screening phase.

The deadline for adoption of the Panel statement is 31 December 2023.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts discussed further the new challenges/themes to be included in this opinion.

The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

- **EFSA guidance on characterisation of microorganisms**

Rosella (FEEDCO Team Feed) presented the state of the art of the guidance.

VII. Next meeting

- 7 November (Tue) (Parma) from 09:00 to 17:00h



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

NO CONFLICT: With regards to this meeting, Prof. Miguel Prieto Maradona declared the following interest: expert reintroduced his former managerial role for the benefit of ICTAL and provided details on this and revised the description of his current employment. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

25th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

27 June 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 17 July 2023



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez, Ingvar Sundh

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena, Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Estefanía Noriega Fernández (NIF Team Novel Foods), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed), Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology) and Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo (MESE).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 24th Working Group meeting held on 3 May 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 24th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 11 May 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- **Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))**
 - Review of the comments received through the Public Consultation (PC)

The WG experts and EFSA Units representatives continued the discussion if each of the questions/ suggestions should or not be considered relevant and if any change should be included in the text. The PC report will be published together with the Panel statement. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

- **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 19: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2023. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00771](#))**

Thirty-one notifications were received between April and September 2023 (inclusive): 20 as feed additives, 8 as food enzymes, food additives and flavourings and 3 as novel foods. From these 31, 26 were not evaluated because: 10 were filamentous fungi and 1 was *Enterococcus faecium* (taxonomic units that are excluded from the QPS evaluation), and 15 were taxonomic units (TUs) that already have a QPS status. Five of the other 5 TUs notified within this period were evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Serratia marcescens*, *Weizmannia faecalis*, *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*, *Ensifer adhaerens* (already notified and evaluated in 2021) and *Burkholderia ubonensis* (already notified and evaluated in 2019).

The new ELS exercise will be launched at the beginning of July. The deadline for adoption of the Panel statement is 31 December 2023.

- **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))**

The experts discussed again the proposals for the new challenges/themes to be included in this opinion. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

VI. Other

- **EFSA Scientific Colloquium 27 on cell culture-derived foods and food ingredients - Feedback**

Estefanía (NIF) provided feedback from the EFSA Scientific Colloquium 27 on "Cell culture-derived foods and food ingredients", held on 11 and 12 May 2023.

VII. Next meeting

- 4 September (Tue) from 09:00 to 12:00h - web conference
 - 7 November (Tue) (Parma) from 09:00 to 17:00h
-

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

5th Working Group meeting on the “absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes”



5 June 2023

09:00-12:00

MEETING NOTES - Agreed on 14 July 2023

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Juan Evaristo Suarez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso, Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Yolanda García Cazorla (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 4 April 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 27 April 2023

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘acquired antimicrobial resistance genes’ ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))

- Review of the comments received through the Public Consultation (PC) and the possible impact on the draft document “How to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes?’”

EFSA sc. officer presented the summary of the submissions received through the PC, considering the type of stakeholders and the number of specific questions or suggestions included on each submission. The WG experts and EFSA Units representatives went through the questions/suggestions and discussed if each of them should or not be considered relevant and if any change should be included in the text. The evaluation will be continued during the next QPS WG meeting to be held on the 27 June (1 hour to be added to the meeting agenda). The PC report will be published together with the PS. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

VI. Next meeting

The next (6th and last) meeting will be held on 20 September 2023, via web conference.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

24th Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

3 May 2023

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 May 2023



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez, Ingvar Sundh
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena, Silvia Peluso (FIP Team Food Enzymes) and Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 23rd Working Group meeting held on 24 March 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 23rd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 6 April 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))

Presentation of the current state of the art of the statement on "*How to interpret the QPS qualification on 'Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'?*". The WG was informed that the Public Consultation (PC) was launched on 2 May and dedicated emails have been sent to relevant stakeholders and networks. The PC will be open until 30 May and can be found at <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0I09000006r4Ki/pc0434>

The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

b. Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))

As planned during the last WG meeting, the experts discussed a few proposals for the new challenges/themes to be included in this opinion. The experts also discussed how this new QPS opinion should be structured what will depend on the subjects to be developed. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

c. Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 18: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2023. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00770](#))

Thirty-eight notifications were received from October 2022 until March 2023; 34 of these will not be evaluated for the following reasons: 14 notifications are related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (8 are notifications of filamentous fungi, 4 of *E. coli*, 2 of *Enterococcus faecium*), and 20 are related to TUs that already have QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Four notifications, corresponding to 4 TU were evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Anaerobutyricum soehngenii*, Microorganism strain DSM 11798, *Pseudomonas stutzeri* and *Nannochloropsis oculata* (algae). The new ELS exercise has been finalised. The document will be presented for possible adoption during the BIOHAZ plenary on 7, 8 June. The deadline for adoption of the Panel statement is 31 June 2023.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 June by web meeting



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

4th Working Group meeting on the “absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes”



4 April 2023

14:00-17:00

MEETING NOTES - Agreed on 27 April 2023

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Juan Evaristo Suarez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Silvia Peluso, Yi Liu (FIP Team Food Enzymes), Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods) and Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 6 March 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 23 March 2023

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))

- Presentation on the “Implementation of a pipeline to identify AMR genes frequencies in bacterial strains. Limitations of homology thresholds and of databases of deposited genomes”

FIP Team has been working in a methodology that can be useful to find how frequent are AMR genes in genomes of a given species with and without applying homology thresholds.

- Workplan for this Panel statement and public consultation

The current state of the art of the preparation of the Public Consultation (PC) to be launched in May was explained to the WG and EFSA Units. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

- Review of draft document “How to interpret the QPS qualification on ‘Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes’?”

The WG experts and EFSA concerned Units/Teams went through the document and specific tasks have been included and need to be completed as soon as possible. The document will be finalised and cleaned to be presented to the next BIOHAZ plenary on 26, 27 April for possible endorsement before launching the PC in May.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5 June 2023, via web conference.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

23rd Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)

24 March 2023

14:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 6 April 2023



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcilli, Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez, Ingvar Sundh

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes); Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting held on 13 January 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 2 February 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))

The EFSA question has been separated from the QPS opinion in February and a new EFSA question was created for this Panel statement (PS). The workplan was presented considering the launch of a Public Consultation (PC) planned for next May. All QPS experts and EFSA colleagues revised the draft document and provided some suggestions. A further revision is required for the next AMR-QPS WG meeting on 4 April. PC Report to be prepared and published with the PS. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023. The document was presented to the BIOHAZ plenary on 15, 16 March. It will be presented for possible endorsement during the plenary in April, before the PC.

- b. Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))

The experts start discussing how this new QPS opinion will be structured. A few proposals for the new challenges/themes to be included in this document were presented but it will be further discussed during the next WG meeting on May 3. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion is 31 December 2025.

- c. Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 18: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2023. ([EFSA-Q-2021-00770](#))

Thirty-two notifications were received from October 2022 until February 2023; 28 of these will not be evaluated for the following reasons: 13 notifications are related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (8 are notifications of filamentous fungi, 2 of *E. coli*, 3 of *Enterococcus faecium*), and 15 are related to TUs that already have QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Four notifications, corresponding to 4 TU will be evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Anaerobutyricum soehngenii*, Microorganism strain DSM 11798, *Pseudomonas stutzeri* and *Nannochloropsis oculata* (algae). The AI DistillerSR new datasets have been trained for the pre-screening of the articles. The document was presented for first reading to the BIOHAZ plenary on 15, 16 March. The deadline for adoption of the Panel statement is 31 June 2023.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 May in Parma.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

3rd Working Group meeting on the “absence of acquired
antimicrobial resistance genes”



6 March 2023

13:30-16:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 23 March 2023

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Juan Evaristo Suarez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes); Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards), and Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting held on 5 January 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 16 January 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft Panel statement on how to interpret the QPS qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes' ([EFSA-Q-2023-00096](#))

The EFSA question has been separated from the QPS opinion in February and a new EFSA question was created for this Panel statement (PS). The workplan was presented considering the launch of a Public Consultation (PC) to relevant stakeholders planned for next May. The 4 EFSA concerned Units/Teams have been very involved in the discussion of this document due to the impact on their respective safety assessment areas (feed and food additives, food enzymes, PPP and novel foods). PC Report to be prepared and published with the PS. The deadline for possible adoption of the PS and acceptance of the PC report is 30 September 2023.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 April 2023, via web conference.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

22nd Working Group meeting on qualified presumption of safety (QPS)



13 January 2023

13:00-16:00

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Lieve Herman (chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Amparo Querol, Lolke Sijtsma, Juan Evaristo Suarez, Ingvar Sundh

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Not Applicable

- EFSA:

Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Beatriz Guerra Roman (BIOHAW Team Biological Hazards); Fulvio Barizzone, Irene Munoz Guajardo (MESE Team); Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team Food Enzymes); Estefania Noriega Fernandez (NIF Team Novel Foods).

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez, Rosella Elisa Brozzi (FEEDCO Team Feed) and Frédérique Istace (PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting held on 5 January 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 16 January 2023.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA.** ([EFSA-Q-2023-00054](#))

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, and other related aspects. The chair presented the current state of the document on how to interpret the QPS qualification on the absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes²⁶. The workplan for this latter document, will be prepared as soon as possible by EFSA in collaboration with the chair. EFSA secretariat also presented the new publications related to QPS, both the new scientific outputs and the new/ updated communications activities. The deadline for adoption of the scientific opinion is 31 December 2025.

- b. **Draft Panel statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 18: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2023.** ([EFSA-Q-2021-00770](#))

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular the evaluation of the only taxonomic unit being evaluated for a possible QPS status: *Anaerobutyricum soehngenii*. Nineteen notifications were received; 18 of these were not evaluated for the following reasons: 9 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (6 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 3 *Enterococcus faecium*) and 9 were related to TUs that already have QPS status and did not require further evaluation. EFSA secretariat presented the procedure agreed with MESE for updating the current Artificial Intelligence (AI) screening of the articles with possible safety concerns. The new extensive literature search (ELS) exercise will be launched as soon the new Distiller SR template is ready. The deadline for adoption of the Panel statement is 31 June 2023.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 March 2023, via web conference.



Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS), dealing with the interpretation of the QPS qualification for all bacteria on “absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes”

Held on 5 January 2023, web meeting

(Agreed on 16 January 2023)

Participants

Working Group Members:

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Juan Evaristo Suarez

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Ernesto Liebana Criado

FEEDCO Team Feed: Rosella Brozzi, Elisa Pettenati

PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology: Frédérique Istace

NIF Team Novel Foods: Estefanía Noriega Fernández

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received for Jaime Aguilera Entrena (FIP Team on food enzymes) and Beatriz Guerra (BIOHAW Unit).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on how to interpret the qualification 'Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes? '

The sub WG and the representatives of the 4 EFSA Units further improved the document being prepared on this subject. It is the main objective of this document to provide clarity on the interpretation of the qualification and a practical guidance on how to proceed to check if a certain strain conforms or not to this qualification. The way this document will be published it is still to be decided.

5. Next meetings

The next meetings are planned for:

- 13 January by web conference (QPS WG)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Held on 3 (14:00 – 18:00) and 4 November (9:00- 13:00) 2022 in Parma

(Agreed on 14 November 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia, Kateryna Chuzhakina

FIP Team Food Enzymes: Jaime Aguilera Entrena

NIF Team Novel Foods: Estefania Noriega Fernandez by web-meeting

PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology: Frédérique Istace by web-meeting

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Elisa Brozzi Rosella (FEEDCO Team Feed).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Discussion and finalisation of the current text. Summaries with the analysis of the notifications received within this 3 years period were included. Summary of the 6 ELS exercises run during this period will also be included. The interpretation of the qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes is still being discussed by a subgroup of the QPS WG and the relevant EFSA units but due to complexity of the subject, it will be published at the beginning of 2023. This document will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 17: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2022⁴

Fifty-two notifications were received; 48 of these were not evaluated for the following reasons: 13 notifications were related to microorganisms that are excluded from QPS evaluation (7 were notifications of filamentous fungi, 3 *Enterococcus faecium*, 2 of *Escherichia coli*, 1 *Streptomyces* spp.), and 35 were related to TUs that already have QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Four notifications, corresponding to 4 TUs and one further TU received after taxonomic reclassification of a TU previously notified, were evaluated for possible QPS status: *Xanthobacter* spp., *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans*, *Streptococcus oralis*, *Ogataea polymorpha* and *Lactiplantibacillus argentoratensis*. This document will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The 2023 meetings are planned for:

- 13 January - web-meeting
- 20 March - web-meeting

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00082>

- 3 May - Parma
- 27 June - web-meeting
- 19 September - web-meeting
- 7 November - Parma



Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Held on 20 September 2022, web meeting

(Agreed on 23 September 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia

FEEDCO Team Feed: Rosella Brozzi, Yolanda García Cazorla

PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology: Frédérique Istace

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Several aspects have been discussed by the experts and text included in the draft opinion. The QPS qualifications for *Bacillus velezensis* and for *Bacillus paralicheniformis* were discussed by the WG for a possible revision. The interpretation of the qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes is being prepared by a subgroup of the QPS WG and with the support from the relevant EFSA units (web-meeting on 2 September). The next WG meeting will be held on 3 and 4 November (Parma). The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 17: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2022⁴

Forty-three notifications were received from April to August 2022: 31 are already QPS, 11 are excluded from QPS exercise (7 filamentous fungi, 2 *Enterococcus faecium*, 1 *E. coli*, 1 *Streptomyces*), 1 bacteria was notified without a proper taxonomic identity (*Xanthobacter* SoF1). One further TU was notified by FIP team - *Ogataea polymorpha* which will be evaluated for a possible QPS status. The current ELS exercise was launched in July and is being finalised. The next WG meeting will be held on 3 and 4 November (Parma). The deadline for possible adoption is December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meetings are planned for:

- 3/4 November (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00082>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS), dealing with the interpretation of the QPS qualification for all bacteria on “absence of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes”

Held on 2 September 2022, web meeting

(Agreed on 16 September 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Pier Sandro Cocconcilli

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Juan Evaristo Suarez

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia, Beatriz Guerra

FEEDCO Team Feed: Yolanda García Cazorla

PREV Team Mammalian Toxicology: Frédérique Istace

FIP Team on food enzymes: Jaime Aguilera Entrena

NIF Team Novel Foods: Estefania Noriega Fernandez

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received for Rosella BROZZI.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on how to interpret the qualification 'Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes? '

The sub WG discussed the subject considering its background and the information provided by the colleagues from the 4 EFSA Units. Considering the limitations of the existing definitions it was agreed that the QPS WG needs to prepare proper definitions of these concepts, considering the current knowledge on the genetic basis of these resistances, their potential for mobilisation and their clinical importance.

5. Next meetings

The next meetings are planned for:

- 20 September (web conference)
- 3/4 November (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 17th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Held on 29 June 2022, web meeting

(Agreed on 20 July 2022)

Participants

Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia, Michaela Hempen

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received for Just Vlák.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Several aspects have been discussed by the experts and text included in the draft opinion: QPS and the synthetic microorganism concept, reference to the WGS analysis and the Microorganisms Pipelines project (MoPS). The interpretation of the qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes will be further elaborated by a subgroup of the QPS WG (web meeting on 2 September). The next WG meeting will be held on 20 September (web meeting). The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 16: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2022⁴

Eleven notifications were received between April and June: 6 already have a QPS-status, 4 are excluded from QPS process (3 filamentous fungi, 1 *E. coli*) and 1 bacterium without a valid taxonomic identity (*Xanthobacter* SoF1). The new extensive literature search (ELS) exercise for monitoring of possible safety concerns related to the microorganisms that are on the QPS list, for the period covered by this statement, will be launched on 11 of July. The deadline for possible adoption is December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meetings are planned for:

- 2 September (web conference)
- 20 September (web conference)
- 3/4 November (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00082>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Held on 17 May 2022, Parma

(Agreed on 31 May 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez, has participated via teleconference

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia, Michaela Hempen

FEEDCO Unit: Elisa Pettenati

Nutri/GMO Unit: Reinhilde Schoonjans, Tilemachos Goumperis, Michele Ardizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Several aspects linked to the current document have been discussed by the working group experts: QPS and the synthetic microorganism concept, QPS and WGS analysis and the interpretation of the qualification on acquired antimicrobial resistance genes. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 16: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2022⁴

Nine of the 50 notifications received, corresponding to 7 TUs, were evaluated for possible QPS status: four of these (*Streptococcus salivarius*, *Companilactobacillus formosensis*, *Pseudonocardia autotrophica* and *Papiliotrema terrestris*) being evaluated for the first time. The other three, *Microbacterium foliorum*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Ensifer adhaerens* were re-assessed because an update was requested in relation to the current mandate. The conclusions of the ELS exercise were discussed/ finalised and are ready for the possible adoption. The deadline for possible adoption is June 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meetings are planned for:

- 29 June (web conference)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00081>

- 20 September (web conference)
- 3/4 November (Parma)

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Lieve Herman declared the following interest: participation in 2 conferences on food microbiology organised by the Belgian Society of Food Microbiology (BSFM) where the experts gave presentations on her private capacity referring, among others, to EFSA BIOHAZ outputs and participation as invited speaker on the "2022 Parma Summer School", co-organised by EFSA, the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition of the University of Parma, and the Catholic University Sacro Cuore of Piacenza. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 26 April 2022

(Agreed on 29 April 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Michaela Hempen

MESE Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

There was no time to discuss this document. It was postponed for the next WG meeting in May. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 16: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2022⁴

Eight of the 50 notifications received, corresponding to 6 TUs, were evaluated for possible QPS status: three of these (*Streptococcus salivarius*, *Companilactobacillus formosensis* and *Pseudonocardia autotrophica*) were evaluated for the first time. The other three, *Microbacterium foliorum*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Ensifer adhaerens* were re-assessed. The conclusions of the extensive literature search (ELS) exercise for the maintenance of the QPS list were discussed. The deadline for possible adoption is June 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 17 May 2022.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00081>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 17 January 2022

(Agreed on 25 January 2022)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Michaela Hempen

MESE Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Da Costa, Irene Munoz Guajardo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

The WG discussed the draft opinion. It was agreed to avoid duplication with the assessments in the panel statement. A trend analysis of notifications received over the last 8 years will be added. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 16: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2022⁴

So far, four notifications have been received: *Ensifer adhaerens*, *Microbacterium foliorum*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Streptococcus salivarius*. The extensive literature search (ELS) for the maintenance of the QPS list was discussed, the search criteria were agreed. ELS will be launched in February 2022. The deadline for possible adoption is June 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 26 April 2022.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00081>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 04 November 2021

(Agreed on 15 November 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 15: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2021³

Seven notifications, corresponding to six TUs were evaluated: *Paenibacillus lentus* was re-assessed because an update was requested for the current mandate. *Enterococcus lactis*, *Schizochytrium aggregatum*, *Aurantiochytrium mangrovei*, synonym *Schizochytrium mangrovei*, *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, synonym *Chlamydomonas smithii* and *Haematococcus lacustris* synonym *Haematococcus pluvialis* were assessed for the first time.

The extensive literature search for reviewing the QPS list resulted 4,191 records that were submitted to the title screening step, which led to the exclusion of 3,910 of these. The remaining 281 records were found eligible for the title and abstract screening step, which led to the exclusion of 197 of these. Of the 94 articles that finally reached the article evaluation step (full text), 37 were considered to report a potential safety concern and were further analysed.

The contributions and conclusions to the draft statement 15 were discussed and agreed. The draft statement will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2021.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

An update was provided on the notification statistics on notifications received since 2013. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.3. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 16: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2022⁵

So far, two notifications have been received: *Streptococcus salivarius* and *Ensifer adhaerens*. The extensive literature search will be launched in January 2022. The deadline for possible adoption is June 2022.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00080>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00081>

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 17 January 2022.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 29 September 2021

(Agreed on 07 October 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

AMU: Fulvio Barizzzone (for 4.1)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 15: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2021³

So far, three taxonomic units from notifications will be included in the QPS assessment: *Enterococcus lactis*, *Haematococcus pluvialis* and *Paenibacillus lentus*. The extensive literature search for reviewing the QPS list resulted in 4,191 records that were submitted to the title screening step, which led to the exclusion of 3,910 of these. The remaining 281 records were found eligible for the title and abstract screening step, which led to the exclusion of 197 of these. Of the 94 articles that finally reached the article evaluation step, 37 were considered to report a potential safety concern and were further analysed.

Some suggestions were made to harmonise the wording of the qualifications on the QPS list. These will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The contributions to the draft statement 15 were discussed and agreed. Some sections require further editing and the notifications for the month of September still need to be added. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft statement will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2021.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The discussion on the draft opinion was postponed to the next meeting. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 4 November 2021.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00080>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 05 July 2021

(Agreed on 09 July 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Beatriz Guerra (for MoPS), Michaela Hempen

COMMS: Francesca Matteucci (for communications activities)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Presentation of the Microorganisms Pipelines Service Project (MoPS)

Beatriz Guerra (BIOCONTAM) presented MoPS and the WG offered to provide assistance, in particular to provide feedback on the suggested list of microorganisms to be included in the project.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 15: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2021³

So far, one notification will be assessed for QPS: *Haematococcus pluvialis*. The extensive literature search for reviewing the QPS list was discussed and new search terms added reflecting recent taxonomic changes. The changes will also be implemented in the next update of the QPS list. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft statement will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2021.

4.3. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The chapter on opportunistic infections requires further contributions from the WG. It was also agreed that the data on notifications will be analysed by risk assessment area to report any trends over the last years. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.4. Communications activities for QPS approach

A draft outline was presented for the content of a visual representation of the QPS approach for the EFSA website. The content should be finalised by 1 November 2021, the graphics will be developed in 2022. The WG agreed to support in the production of the content.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 29 September 2021.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00080>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 19 May 2021

(Agreed on 25 May 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 14: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2021³

In the period covered by this statement, no new information was found so far that would change the status of previously recommended QPS TUs. *Schizochytrium limacinum* will be added to the QPS list as a synonym for *Aurantiochytrium limacinum*. Of the 78 microorganisms notified to EFSA between October 2020 and March 2021, 71 were excluded; 16 species of filamentous fungi, 1 *Dyella* sp., 1 *Enterococcus faecium*, 7 *Escherichia coli*, 1 *Streptomyces* sp., 1 *Schizochytrium* sp. and 44 TUs that had been previously evaluated. Seven TUs were newly evaluated: *Anoxybacillus caldiproteolyticus*, *Bacillus paralicheniformis*, *Enterobacter hormaechei*, *Eremothecium ashbyi*, and *Lactococcus garvieae* for the first time; *Corynebacterium stationis* and *Kodamaea ohmeri* were re-assessed because an update was requested for the current mandate.

The draft Statement 14 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption during the plenary meeting on 3/4 June 2021.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG only briefly discussed the draft opinion. The chapter on opportunistic infections requires further contributions from the WG. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.3. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 15: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2021⁵

For April 2021, four notifications were received: two notifications for *Bacillus velezensis*, which already has QPS status, and for *Pythium oligandrum* and *Trichoderma citrinoviride* which are excluded from QPS assessment.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00079>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00080>

The search terms for the extended literature search to monitor the taxonomic units on the QPS list will be updated to include: *Cyberlindnera jadinii* for *Lindnera jadinii*, *Yarrowia lipolytica* for *Candida lipolytica*, *Limtongozyma cylindracea* added as a synonym of *Candida cylindracea*, *Weizmannia coagulans* as synonym for *Bacillus coagulans* and *Schizochytrium limacinum* as synonym for *Aurantiochytrium limacinum*.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 5 July 2021.



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 14 April 2021

(Agreed on 19 April 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen

AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 14: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2021³

Of the 78 microorganisms notified to EFSA between October 2020 and March 2021, 71 were excluded; 16 filamentous fungi, 1 *Dyella* sp., 1 *Enterococcus faecium*, 7 *Escherichia coli*, 1 *Streptomyces* spp., 1 *Schizochytrium* sp. and 44 TUs that had been previously evaluated. Seven TUs were evaluated; *Anoxybacillus caldiproteolyticus*, *Bacillus paralicheniformis*, *Enterobacter hormaechei*, *Eremothecium ashbyi*, and *Lactococcus garvieae* for the first time and *Corynebacterium stationis* and *Kodamaea ohmeri* were re-assessed because an update was requested in relation to the current mandate.

The results of the Extensive Literature Search (ELS) were presented and some articles that are relevant for QPS assessment were discussed in greater detail. The WG agreed on those articles that are to be discussed in the draft statement.

Timelines and tasks were agreed.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG only briefly discussed the draft opinion. The chapter on opportunistic infections requires further contributions from the WG. Timelines and tasks were agreed. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 19 May 2021.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00079>

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 19 January 2021

(Agreed on 25 January 2021)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
Lieve Herman
Luisa Peixe
Miguel Prieto Maradona
Amparo Querol
Lolke Sijtsma
Juan Evaristo Suarez
Ingvar Sundh
Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen, Maria Francesca Iulietto
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Munoz Guajardo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 14: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2021³

The strategy for the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS) was briefly presented with the update since the adoption of Panel Statement on QPS Part 13. Timelines and tasks were agreed.

Since October 2020, 30 notifications were received and the following are included in this statement: *Enterobacter hormoaechei* and *Eremothecium ashbyi*.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG discussed and agreed on a revised structure for the draft opinion. This was followed by a discussion on the safety of QPS organisms where regularly opportunistic infections are reported and the possible addition of bacteriophages to the QPS assessment. The discussion will be reflected in the next version of the draft opinion. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 14 April 2021.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00079>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 November 2020

(Agreed on 23 November 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luisa Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen

AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Luisa Peixe and Just Vlak and from Miguel Prieto Maradona for the afternoon.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the draft statement part 13 which will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel in December 2020 for possible adoption. Of the 36 microorganisms notified to EFSA between April and September 2020, 33 were excluded; 7 filamentous fungi (including *Aureobasidium pullulans* based on recent taxonomic insights), 1 *Clostridium butyricum*, 1 *Enterococcus faecium*, 3 *Escherichia coli*, 1 *Streptomyces* spp. and 20 TUs that had been previously evaluated. Three taxonomic units (TUs) were evaluated: *Methylobacterium extorquens* and *Mycobacterium aurum* for the first time and *Bacillus circulans* was re-assessed because an update was requested in relation to a new mandate. Algae/Protists are now also included in the Statement. The TUs already on the QPS list were also revised as required by the terms of reference.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG discussed the structure of the draft opinion and the possible addition of bacteriophages. This was followed by a discussion on the safety of QPS organisms where regularly opportunistic infections are reported. A description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi has already been added to the draft statement part 13 and a reference to that statement will be made in the draft opinion. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The meeting schedule for 2021 will be decided shortly after this meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 07 October 2020

(Agreed on 12 October 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luise Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Lolke Sijtsma

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen

AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes. The WG chair welcomed the new WG member who gave a short presentation related to his field of expertise (algae).

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the results of the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). Two articles (*Bacillus* and *Lactococci*) were discussed in detail and the WG agreed on the outcome of the evaluation. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Bacillus circulans*, *Methylobacterium extorquens* and *Mycobacterium aurum*. The WG considers *Aureobasidium pullulans* a filamentous fungus and is therefore not considered for QPS. Algae will be added to the Statement.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 November 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 July 2020

(Agreed on 13 July 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
Lieve Herman
Luise Peixe
Miguel Prieto Maradona
Amparo Querol
Juan Evaristo Suarez
Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone
FIP Unit: Jaime Aguilera

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ingvar Sundh.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the search strategy for the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS) and agreed that no change to the last search was necessary. However, the taxonomic units searched will be described independently even though the search is done in groups for some of them. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Bacillus circulans* and *Methylobacterium extorquens*.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi and a brief discussion on microbiological safety in relation to opportunistic infections. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Any Other Business

It was suggested to produce a short presentation on the QPS framework for either internal use in EFSA or, together with Communications Unit and other EFSA Units, for the public. The aim is to explain in practical what QPS is and how it is applied.

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 7 October 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 July 2020

(Agreed on 13 July 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
Lieve Herman
Luise Peixe
Miguel Prieto Maradona
Amparo Querol
Juan Evaristo Suarez
Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone
FIP Unit: Jaime Aguilera

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ingvar Sundh.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the search strategy for the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS) and agreed that no change to the last search was necessary. However, the taxonomic units searched will be described independently even though the search is done in groups for some of them. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Bacillus circulans* and *Methylobacterium extorquens*.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi and a brief discussion on microbiological safety in relation to opportunistic infections. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Any Other Business

It was suggested to produce a short presentation on the QPS framework for either internal use in EFSA or, together with Communications Unit and other EFSA Units, for the public. The aim is to explain in practical what QPS is and how it is applied.

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 7 October 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Sub-WG Meeting

WEB-conference, 10 June 2020

(Agreed on 16 June 2020)

Participants

Working Group Members:

Lieve Herman

Juan Evaristo Suarez

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Munoz Guajardo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

This meeting was dedicated to discuss the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS). The following groups have been agreed for reporting of the ELS results, which will be presented to the WG at the next meeting:

Bacillus
Bifidobacterium
Carnobacterium divergens
Corynebacterium glutamicum
G-: Gluconobacter oxydans / Xanthomonas campestris
Lactobacilli
Lactococcus lactis
Leuconostoc
Microbacterium imperiale
Oenococcus
Pasteuria nishizawae
Pediococci
Propionibacterium
Streptococcus thermophilus
Viruses (total)
Alphaflexiviridae
Baculoviridae
Yeasts

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 July 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 20 May 2020

(Agreed on 25 May 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
Lieve Herman
Luise Peixe
Miguel Prieto Maradona
Amparo Querol
Juan Evaristo Suarez
Ingvar Sundh
Just Vlak

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020³

The qualified presumption of safety (QPS) was developed to provide a generic safety evaluation for biological agents to support EFSA's Scientific Panels. It is based on an assessment of the taxonomic identity, the body of knowledge, safety concerns and antimicrobial resistance. Safety concerns identified for a taxonomic unit (TU) are where possible to be confirmed at strain or product level, reflected by 'qualifications'. No new information was found that would change the previously recommended QPS TUs of the 39 microorganisms notified to EFSA between October 2019 and March 2020, 33 were excluded, including 5 filamentous fungi, 5 *Escherichia coli*, 2 *Enterococcus faecium*, 2 *Streptomyces* spp. and 19 TUs already evaluated. Six TUs were evaluated. *Akkermansia muciniphila* was not recommended for QPS status due to safety concerns. *Clostridium butyricum* was not recommended because some strains contain pathogenicity factors. This TU was excluded for further QPS evaluation. *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* were also rejected due to a lack of body of knowledge. The QPS status of *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes* (with the qualification 'for production purposes only') and of *Komagataella pastoris* (with the qualification 'for enzyme production') was confirmed. In relation to the taxonomic revision of the *Lactobacillus* genus, previously designated *Lactobacillus* species will be reassigned to the new species and both the old and new names will be retained in the QPS list.

The Statement Part 12 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption on 3/4 June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 July 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 22 April 2020

(Agreed on 04 May 2020)

Participants

Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly

Pier Sandro Cocconcelli

Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez

Lieve Herman

Luise Peixe

Miguel Prieto Maradona

Amparo Querol

Juan Evaristo Suarez

Ingvar Sundh

Just Vlak

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Da Silva Felicio Teresa, Michaela Hempen

AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Fulvio Barizzone presented the progress of the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). The tasks assigned for the three phases ELS: title screening, title and abstract screening and article evaluation were completed on time. There were no new relevant articles found for nine of the taxonomic units (TU) addressed. Relevant publications for the remaining TU were evaluated by the experts. The first ELS is completed and informs the Statement Part 12 with a deadline of June 2020 and the Scientific Opinion which is expected to be presented for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020⁴

A total of 38 notifications were received between October 2019 and March 2020, 19 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Two notifications are included in the evaluation because of a different intended use, 14 notifications are not evaluated for a QPS status, i.e. *E. coli*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Streptomyces* spp, and filamentous fungi, which are currently excluded from QPS evaluations (EFSA BIOHAZ Panel, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020). The remaining notifications are included in the evaluation for a possible QPS recommendation, i.e. *Clostridium butyricum*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Akkermansia muciniphila*. The Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption at the BIOHAZ Panel plenary in June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 20 May 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 04 March 2020

(Agreed on 09 March 2020)

Participants

n Working Group Members:

Marianne Chemaly
Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
Lieve Herman
Luise Peixe
Miguel Prieto Maradona
Amparo Querol
Juan Evaristo Suarez
Ingvar Sundh

n European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

n EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen, Pietro Stella
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo
NUTRI Unit: Annamaria Rozzi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Just Vlak.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Fulvio Barizzzone presented the approach for the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). Tasks were assigned for the three phases ELS: title screening, title and abstract screening and article evaluation which will be done in pairs. The first ELS will be completed in May 2020 to inform the Statement Part 12 with a deadline of June 2020 and the Scientific Opinion which is expected to be presented for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020⁴

A total of 31 notifications were received between October 2019 and February 2020, 15 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation. One notification is included in the evaluation because of a different intended use, 12 notifications are not evaluated for a QPS status, i.e. *E. coli*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Streptomyces* spp, and filamentous fungi, which are currently excluded from QPS evaluations (EFSA BIOHAZ Panel, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020). The remaining notifications are included in the evaluation for a possible QPS recommendation, i.e. *Clostridium butyricum*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Akkermansia muciniphila*. The Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption at the BIOHAZ Panel plenary in June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 22 April 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>